

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Harrison Christmas series

Pianist and composer Michael Allen Harrison kicks off his Christ series by performing two concerts Dec. 17 in the Old Church Concert Hall, downtown. The event will benefit the Oregon Donor Program and the Old Church Concert Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m. for the first concert that begins at 6 p.m. and doors open at 7:30 p.m. for the second concert scheduled for 8 p.m.

Hanukkah lights

The 1997 Festival of Lights Hanukkah Fair will be held Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. The fair offers buyers and browsers gifts, books, fine art, jewelry, gourmet foods, toys, children's clothing and specialties items.

Scouts collect foods

Boy Scouts will collect food door-to-door in neighborhoods of 13 counties in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington on Saturday. The food will be distributed to local food banks. If you wish to make a donation, please call the Oregon Food Bank at 282-0555.

Theatre tickets available

Portland Center Stage still has minipackages for its 1997-98 season available at substantial savings from regular ticket prices. "A New York State of Mind" packages, features the three recent Broadway or off-Broadway hits of the season, beginning at just \$29.70. Call the Portland Center Stage box office at 274-6588.

Jazz dimension

A jazz sound like no other comes to the Crystal Ballroom Friday with the Grey Boy Allstars featuring music from their latest album "A Town Called Earth." The group has been selling out San Francisco's Fillmore to crowds that are as beautifully diverse as their music.

Christmas choral concert

Warner Pacific College Fellows perform a free Christmas Choral Concert with The Portland Christian High School Choir, Sunday at 3 p.m. at McGuire Auditorium, on the college campus at Southeast 68th and Division.

Zoolights shine Friday

The Zoolights festival at the Metro Washington Park Zoo is a family tradition getting better every year. Beginning Friday at 5 p.m. the zoo will be transformed into a sparkling holiday display as over 500,000 lights illuminate the grounds. Trees, buildings, shrubs, walkways, the zoo train and life-sized animal silhouettes will shine.

Kwanzaa: celebrates life

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center's annual Kwanzaa celebration is coordinated by artist Charlotte Lewis in order to share African-American cultural traditions with the Portland community. A Kwanzaa exhibit is open Thursday through Dec. 31 at 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Kwanzaa is a non-religious holiday celebrated by people of African descent around the world from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1.

Christmas arts, crafts fair

The first annual Artisans of Portland Center Stage Christmas Arts and Crafts fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 21 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Intermediate Theater of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 1111 S. W. Broadway.

Songs heard at women's holiday social

Song, poetry and conversation will be abundant at Radical Women's Holiday Social at 7 p.m. at the Northwest neighborhood Cultural Center, 1819 N.W. Everett. For more information or childcare, call 228-3090.

SUBMISSIONS: Community Calendar information will be given priority if received two weeks before the event date.

Girls find mentor in Carline

Coach has a formula for Benson girls' basketball success

By NEIL HEILPERN

Echoes of a dozen bouncing basketballs reverberated through the Benson High School gymnasium while the shiny floor reflected a girls' basketball practice shooting hoops.

Coach Dennis Carline was still upstairs in a special study hall, helping players who needed to boost academic averages to be part of his game plan: all around development — on the court, in the classroom and school community involvement.

"He's an all around fun guy, real animated," noted freshman Aleah Wilson, "an awesome coach who doesn't nail you if you make mistakes, but gives you chance after chance."

Senior Shekinah Brazzle dates her association with Carline back to her kindergarten days, recalling how "the coach has always given me courage, a lot of it, helped me develop self-esteem and not be afraid or be intimidated by anybody."

She recalled his encouragement when she was the only third grade girl basketball player. "He pushed me out there and said it was a chance to prove myself."

"We share an up-tempo philosophy and style," said assistant coach Doug Strong, who turned down job offers to remain with Carline. "He gives me a lot of freedom as girls' freshman coach and he teaches them to be successful no matter what they do."

Assistant Coach Sonora McDuffie called Carline "very nurturing, caring, more than just a coach, a father figure to a lot of the



Benson High School Girls' Basketball Coach Dennis Carline directs team practice.

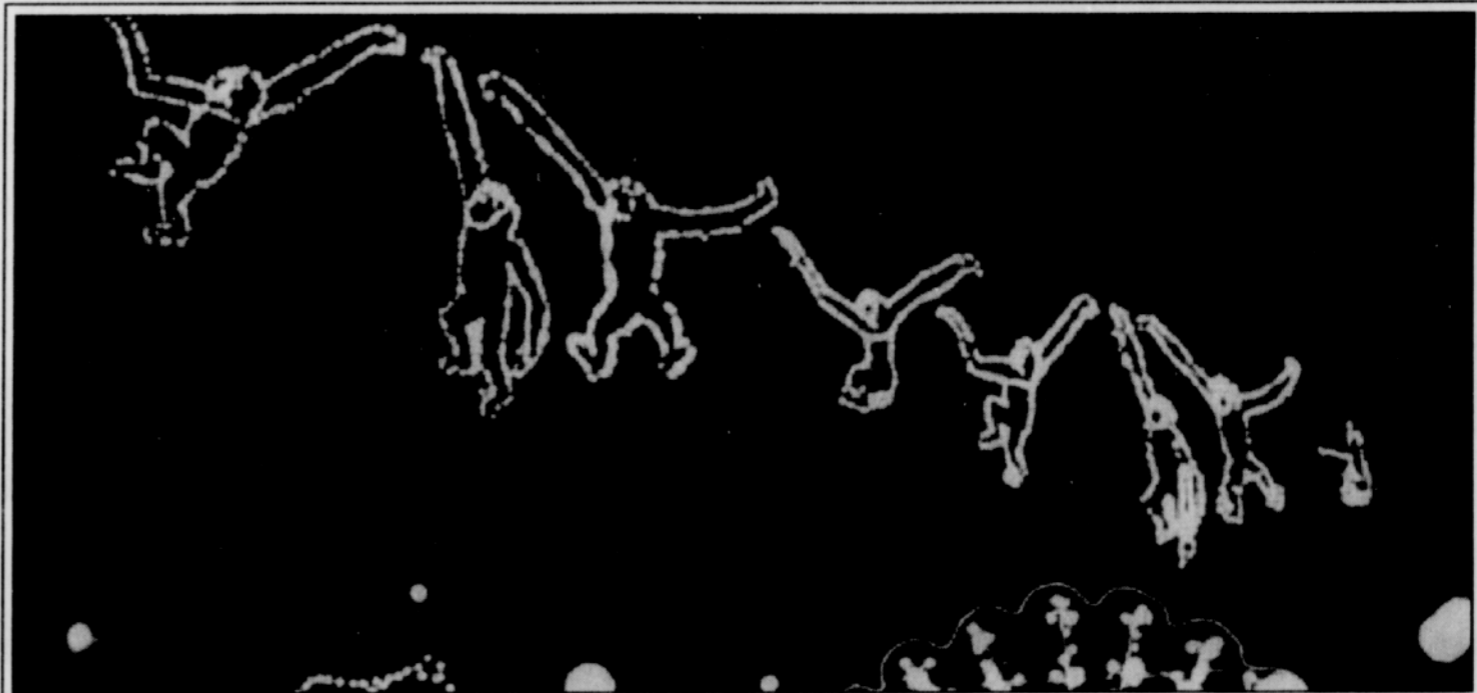
(Photo by M. Washington)

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Choir sings Songs of the Season

The Oregon Repertory Singers Children's Choir will present "Songs of the Season" on Dec. 14th, at 2 p.m. in St. Mary's Cathedral, 1716 NW Davis. The choir will perform Spanish Carols, Parker Handbells and selections from Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by calling 246-8989.

The children's choir was created to meet the music education needs of Portland area children and introduce them to excellent singing through great choral literature. The choir's mission is to create musical opportunity and make a difference in young peoples lives.



ZOOLIGHTS

The Metro Washington Park Zoo is transformed into a sparkling holiday display as over 500,000 lights illuminate the grounds for the holiday season beginning Friday, each evening through Dec. 31, except Christmas Eve and Christmas.

Winters on annual turkey hunt for poor

Colleagues know him affectionately as "Turkey Percy"

By LEE PERLMAN

The holiday season is turkey time for Percy Winters, Jr. Not for eating or dressing them, but for procuring them so others can do the same.

Winters "hunts" for Thanksgiving holiday turkeys for low-income families as an employee of the Oregon Food Bank. He has some reliable "hunting grounds" - firms such as Americold and Re/Max Realty that have proven to be reliable givers in the past.

"I tell them, 'Hey, I need a few more turkeys this year,'" Winters says.

"Turkey Percy," as he is affectionately known to his Food Bank colleagues, has gotten good at hunting since he originated the program five years ago. His target this year was 250 turkeys, and he wound up collecting 444.

The birds go to participating agencies. In northeast Portland they helped make possible a group dinner at St. Andrews Catholic Church. Over at New Hope Baptist Church's food bank, they can be picked up for free by households meeting federal guidelines for



Percy Winters gets food boxes at the Oregon Food Bank ready for deliveries to hungry families during the winter holiday period.

(Photo by M. Washington)

assistance.

Allie K. Kilpatrick, executive director of the New Hope program for 16 years, calls Winters "a wonderful, very nice young man. He makes sure we have enough vegetables for all our food baskets."

Winters does not participate in the giveaways themselves. "I stay in the background," he says. Still, he says, he empathizes with the people who receive the turkeys. "When I was growing up in Mississippi, I knew what it was like to do without," he says.

Without Food Bank help, many here would face that prospect, Kilpatrick says. Baskets go to the elderly and large families.

Some of the latter are working people, she says, "but after paying their bills they don't have any money left for anything else." And, despite their best efforts, the food banks don't do as well as they wish they could.

New Hope distributed 150 holiday baskets this year, all with some meat in them, only a lucky 16 people got turkeys. They will also be giving away food prior to Christmas.

Winters will also be out doing his thing during the holiday season, with a slight twist. The emphasis this time will be on donations of toys and gifts for families in need.

Anyone who wants to help is encouraged to call the food bank at 282-0555.